

sheath wraps around the barrel of the marking device.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The marking device of Claim 1 further comprising:

a clamp for clamping the sheath to the marking device.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The marking device of Claim 1 further comprising:

an antibacterial substance associated with the sheath.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The marking device of Claim 1 wherein the connecting lead is a chain.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The marking device of Claim 1 wherein the end cap is interchangeable between a plurality of barrels.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The marking device of Claim 1 further comprising:

means for attaching the sheath to the barrel.

Claim 9 (previously amended): A marking device accessory kit, the accessory kit comprising:

a marking device having a barrel defined between a first end and a second end wherein the first end has a tip capable of producing a mark;

a flat article placed around the barrel to partially cover the barrel of the marking device;

a band secured around the flat article to hold the flat article on the barrel; and

a cap having a lead extending from the cap wherein the cap is removably attached to the barrel at the second end.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (original): The accessory kit of Claim 9 further

comprising:

an antimicrobial substance associated with the article.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The accessory kit of Claim 9 wherein the article wraps a plurality of times around the barrel creating a plurality of layers around the marking device.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The accessory kit of Claim 9 wherein the article includes an adhesive for fixing the article to the barrel of the marking device.

Claim 14 (previously amended): The accessory kit of Claim 9 further comprising:

a tool for attaching the band to the article.

Claim 15 (currently amended) A marking device accessory kit, the accessory kit comprising:

a marking device having a ~~body~~ barrel having an exterior surface wherein the barrel is defined between a first end and a second end wherein the first end has a tip capable of producing a mark and further wherein the marking device has a means for producing a mark within the barrel;

a sheath defined between a first end and a second end wherein the sheath fits around the ~~body~~ exterior surface of the barrel of the marking device and forms a gap between the first end and the second end of the sheath leaving a portion of the body of the marking device not covered by the sheath;

an end cap removably attached on the second end of the marking device wherein the end cap is interchangeable between a plurality of marking devices; and

a connecting lead having a first end and a second end wherein the first end of the connecting lead extends from the end cap and

is removably connected to the end cap.

Claim 16 (previously amended): The accessory kit of Claim 15 wherein the connecting lead is a chain.

Claim 17 (currently amended) A method of using a marking device, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a barrel having an exterior surface and further having a body defined between a first end and a second end wherein the first end has a tip capable of producing a mark wherein a means for producing a mark is within the barrel;

providing a sheath that partially covers the exterior surface of the barrel between the first end and the second end wherein the sheath is coated with an antimicrobial substance;

providing an end cap for fitting over the second end of the barrel wherein the end cap has a connecting lead that extends from the end cap;

fitting the sheath over the barrel between the first end and the second end; and

fitting the end cap over the second end of the barrel.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (original): The method of Claim 17 further comprising the steps of:

providing clamps for clamping the sheath to the barrel of the marking device;

wrapping the sheath over the barrel of the marking device; and

clamping the sheath to the barrel of the marking device.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 17 further comprising the steps of:

providing an adhesive on the sheath; and

wrapping the sheath around the barrel of the marking device forming layers wherein the layers stick together and further to the marking device via the adhesive.

Claim 21 (new): A method of using a marking device, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a barrel having a body defined between a first end and a second end wherein the first end has a tip capable of producing a mark;

providing a sheath that partially covers the barrel between the first end and the second end wherein the sheath is coated with an antimicrobial substance;

providing an end cap for fitting over the second end of the barrel wherein the end cap has a connecting lead that extends from the end cap;

fitting the sheath over the barrel between the first end and the second end;

fitting the end cap over the second end of the barrel;

providing clamps for clamping the sheath to the barrel of the marking device;

wrapping the sheath over the barrel of the marking device; and clamping the sheath to the barrel of the marking device.